Communicable Disease Safety Plan: 2026 Summer Camp Program

We have developed this safety plan to prioritize the health of our camp community during the 2026 Summer Camp season. Given the current prevalence of infectious diseases and illnesses, our primary goal is to minimize transmission, as this is essential for maintaining an adequate number of staff members. A full and healthy staff team is crucial for delivering high-quality care and support to our campers.

To ensure our safety plan remains up-to-date and effective, we continuously monitor guidance and recommendations from public health authorities, the Ontario Camps Association, and medical experts. These recommendations are evaluated in the context of our program's objectives and the unique strengths and limitations of our camp. It's important to note that this is an ongoing process, so our **policies and procedures may evolve as the summer unfolds**.

We welcome feedback from both camper families and staff members. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this Safety Plan further, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via email at campkirk@campkirk.com.

Latest Revision Date: November 2025

EDUCATION + TRAINING

- Each participant will be sent a copy of Camp Kirk's Communicable Disease Safety Plan in advance of their arrival at camp.
- A copy of Camp Kirk's Communicable Disease Safety Plan will be posted in the Health Hub at camp, and on the Camp Kirk website.

VACCINATION POLICY

- All participants are encouraged to be fully vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases (VPD's) in advance of camp.
- To participate in the camp program, participants are required to disclose their vaccination history on their medical form. This will allow the camp to implement appropriate protocols to keep individuals and the camp community safe in the event of an outbreak.

SCREENING FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

PRE-ARRIVAL PRECAUTIONS & SCREENING

- Participants should limit their exposure to communicable illnesses to the greatest extent possible 7 days prior to their arrival at camp. If a friend or family member has a cold or illness, it is best to hold off on spending time with them until after camp.
- Participants must notify the Camp Kirk office immediately within the 7 days before their session start date if:
    - They have symptoms of a communicable illness
    - They have a communicable illness and are recovering
- If a participant has symptoms of communicable illness they will be asked to stay home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

MINIMIZING RISK OF TRANSMISSION

HEALTH PROMOTION

The following are preventative measures that will be implemented to promote health in the camp setting:

- Outdoor Time
    - Outdoors will be the preferred setting for activities, including meal times, if the weather is appropriate.
- Healthy Hand Hygiene
    - Healthy hand hygiene will be promoted regularly throughout the day. Handsantizier will be readily available, and staff will arrange for hand-washing sessions during key times during the day.
    - Participants will be asked to wash/sanitize their hands directly before both activities and meals.
- Frequent Facility + Equipment Sanitization
    - We will frequently sanitize facilities, equipment, and ‘high touch’ areas around camp. Sanitization schedules may be increased if cases of illness are heightened.

POTENTIAL PROTOCOLS

The following protocols **may** be implemented, at any point in the summer, if there is a rise in cases of communicable illness in the general public, or within the camp community:

- Cohorting
    - To minimize transmission of a communicable illness, the concept of cohorts may be used to provide guidelines for when certain protocols need to be in place.
    - A ‘cohort’ at Camp Kirk is defined as a group of individuals who sleep in the same living quarters (i.e. a cabin group of campers, a cabin group of staff).

    - At Camp Kirk staff do not live in the same cabins as campers, so it is important to note that staff are never in the same cohort as campers.
- Masking
    - *Indoors:* Participants may be required to wear masks when indoors, unless sleeping, eating, bathing or brushing teeth.
    - *Outdoors:* Masks may be required outdoors if a participant is in close contact consistently with someone outside of their cohort for an extended period of time (i.e. 10+ minutes).

MANAGEMENT OF SUSPECTED CASES OF COMMUNICABLE ILLNESS

Care of individuals with a suspected or confirmed communicable illness

- Any participants who are symptomatic or feeling ill should immediately put on a mask and report to the healthcare team. All health assessments of symptomatic individuals will be conducted in the Health Hub's "Waiting Room". (i.e. the shade tent outside of the Health Hub).
- Any individuals who are interacting with participants with suspected or confirmed illnesses must wear the appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) at all times.
- If a participant has symptoms of a communicable illness, and symptoms are not linked to an explainable or pre-existing condition, they will be isolated in a designated space. The following protocols will be followed:
    - The participant will be isolated for 24 hours and their symptoms will be monitored.
    - If symptoms persist at the same level or worsened, the participant will be required to stay isolated from the camp community. Due to the lack of isolated accommodation on-site, **the participant will be sent home to recuperate.**
    - A participant may return to site once they have been symptom-free for 24 hours

---

MANAGEMENT OF CONFIRMED CASES AND OUTBREAKS

When there is a confirmed case of a vaccine preventable disease during a camp session:

- All fully-vaccinated participants may continue their camp stay. Participants who remain on-site will be screened for symptoms daily until the end of the camp session.
- The following protocols may be in place for 5 days for any individuals who are deemed 'close contacts' of the positive case:
    - Masking and social distancing will be required at all times when around others who are not part of their cohort.
    - A washroom and dining area will be established for close contacts, so that appropriate distance can be maintained during unmasked times.

- **NOTE:** Under the protocols listed above, Camp Kirk would not be able to provide appropriate support to campers who are deemed close contacts (i.e. cabin counsellors would not be able to be within two metres of their campers at any point, which would prevent staff from providing appropriate care). ***As such, when a vaccine preventable disease is established in a cabin group, all campers within that cabin group will be sent home.***

When there is a confirmed case shortly after a camp session:

- The Camp Kirk office must be notified if a participant is positive for a vaccine preventable disease within a week of the end of their camp stay. In this event, the Camp Kirk office will notify all participants who were on-site at the same time as the positive individual and instruct them to monitor for symptoms, and follow recommendations from Public Health.

Assessment and management of Outbreaks

- Camp Kirk will use the support of the *Lakelands Public Health Unit* to help assess if there is an outbreak of communicable disease within our camp community, and will closely follow the health units recommendations and instructions to prevent and manage outbreaks.